

Serial No. 10/816,288

PATENT

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 31, 2007, claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 to 18 are pending of which claims 4, 5, 7, 9 to 12 and 15 to 18 were rejected and claims 13 and 14 were objected to.

In particular:

- Claims 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bishop et al US Patent 6979339.
- Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bishop et al in view of West et al US Patent 6273877.
- Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bishop et al in view of Davis US Patent 6018676.
- Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spinoso in view of Helfgott et al in view of US Patent 5533986 (Mottola).
- Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bishop et al in view of Knox US Patent 3561596.
- Claims 13 and 14 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 4 is amended to include the subject matters of claims 11, 13 and 14 and claims 11, 13 and 14 have been cancelled. Claim 4 is also amended to add the word "connector" at line 23 to clarify that line of the claim.

Claim 18 is amended to include the subject matters of claims 11, 13 and 14.

We submit that in making these amendments no new subject matter has been introduced.

DISCUSSION

The independent claims 4 and 18 have been amended by the inclusion of the allowed subject matter of claims 13 and 14 and also claim 11 has been added into the independent claims 4 and 18 because it is an intervening claim.

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We submit therefore that claims 4 and 18 are now allowable and the rejections of anticipation and patentability against these claims has been rendered moot by the inclusion of the allowable subject matter.

Claims 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 15 to 17 which depend from allowable claim 4 are, we submit, also allowable.

The re-examination and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested and it is further requested this application be passed to issue.

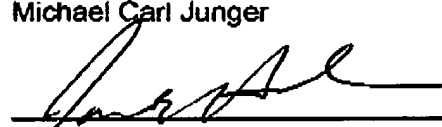
Although the foregoing discussion is believed to be disposed of the issues in this case, applicant's attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to further discuss any unresolved issues remaining after the Examiner's consideration of this amendment and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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